

COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: PIER

HAER No. NJ-71-TT

(Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: Pier)

Hudson River, approximately 115 feet south of the end of Sussex Street

Jersey City

Hudson County

New Jersey

HAER  
NJ  
9-JERC,  
18TT-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Northeast Field Area

Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office

National Park Service

U.S. Custom House

200 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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- Location:** On the Hudson River, approximately 115 feet south of the end of Sussex Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey
- Significance:** The pier, sometimes called the Colgate Pier or Pier A, was used for shiploading of finished products and piped intake of river water, oils, caustic soda, and other manufacturing materials, c1925-87. Although not an individually significant structure, it has some significance as a component of the Colgate-Palmolive Jersey City plant.
- Description:** The Sussex Street Pier is a timber-pile structure, approximately 33 by 375 feet, with timber deck supports and decking. The outer end has a Colgate-Palmolive Company helistop.
- History:** Historic maps suggest the pier was built c1905, perhaps by the Jersey Associates, and leased until about World War I by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Colgate & Company then leased the pier for receipt and shipment of raw materials and finished products. Until c1922, the pier was open. After the construction of E-1 as a warehouse (HAER No. NJ-71-II), the firm built an extensive box conveyor system linking B Block with E-1, and E-1 with the pier for export shiploading. The elevated conveyor passed through or over E Block buildings, over Sussex Street and an older F Block structure, and turned to run about 150 feet down the center of the pier, ending in a spiral descent to the deck. The outer end of the conveyor included a shed (HAER No. NJ-71, AERIAL VIEW TO NORTHWEST, c1934-47). Pipes for receipt of river water and raw materials were added to the pier beginning c1935-40. Colgate-Palmolive-Peet purchased the pier in 1951. The export conveyor was demolished c1955, when the new F-1 warehouse was completed, and a new conveyor for receipt of soda ash from barges apparently built c1955-60. The shoreline bulkhead was evidently extended into the river about 70 feet, shortening the pier to its present length, at about the same time.

**Sources:**

**Plans:**

The drawings listed below are currently (1991) held in L-1 (HAER No. NJ-71-SS) at the Jersey City plant. For future access, researchers should contact the company's Office of Corporate Communications, 300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

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\* Capitalized reference is to photograph included with HAER No. NJ-71.

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Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co./Colgate-Palmolive Company  
1938 Pier Foot of Sussex Street. Dwg. No. 2-2083.  
  
1955 No. Elev. of Pier w/ Piping Details. Dwg. No. 2-3935.  
  
1963 Colgate-Palmolive Co. Dock - Foot of Sussex Street For  
1963 Major Maintenance. Dwg. No. 2-3522.  
  
1968 F4 Bldg & Pier. Dwg. No. 2-6120.  
  
1977 Proposed Helistop. [no dwg. no.]

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Sanborn Map Company

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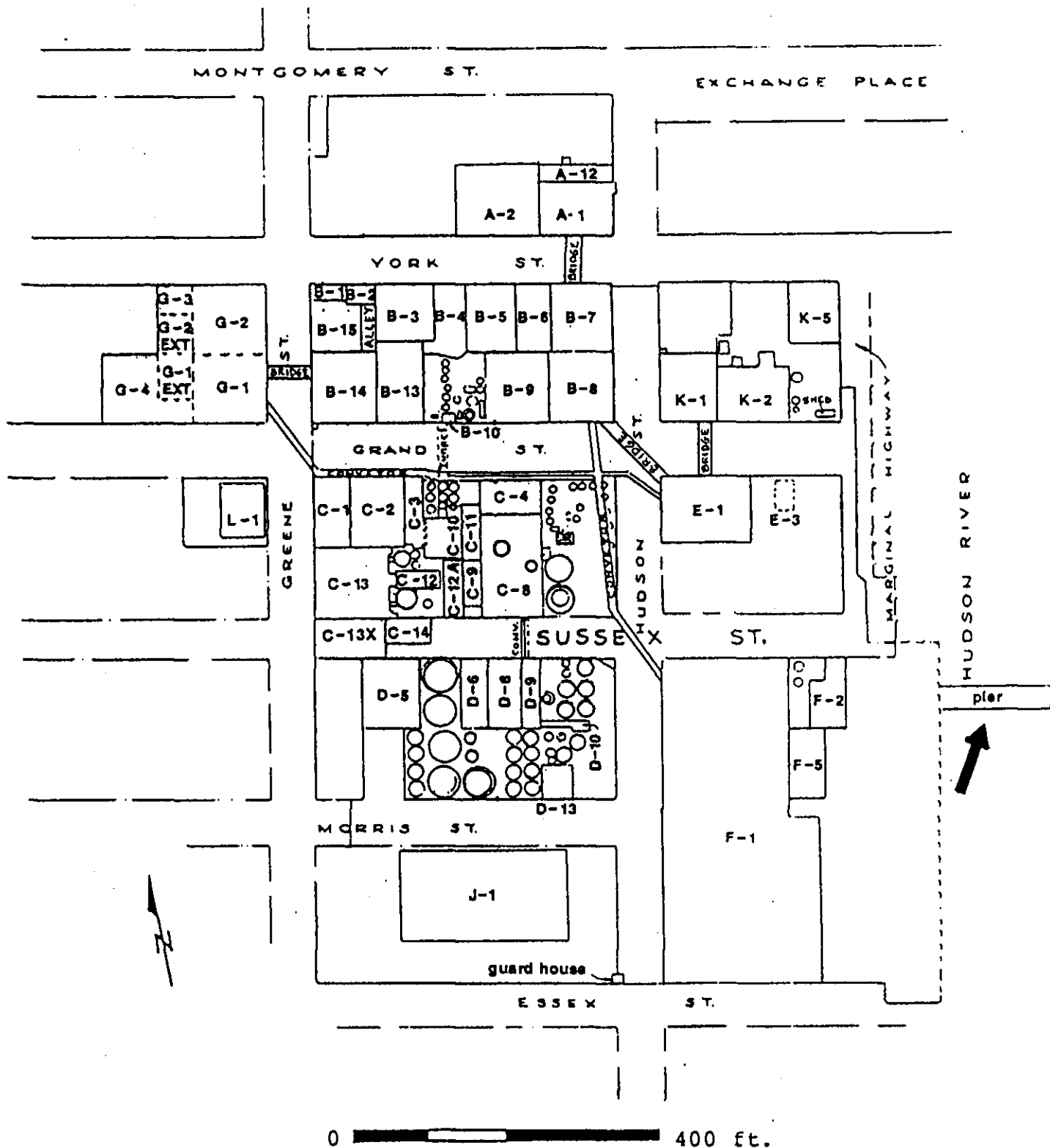


Figure 1. LOCATION OF PIER AT COLGATE JERSEY CITY PLANT